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INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE AGENCY CONDUCTS RESEARCH
ON WORKING CONDITIONS IN MINES, AGRICULTURE

SET UP NEW RESEARCH AGENCIES, SET STANDARDS -- Budapest, Kis Ujsag, 13 Jun 51

Two new research agencies, the Nutritional Science Agency and the National Industrial Hygiene Agency, have recently been added to the National Public Health Agency. The functions of the National Industrial Hygiene Agency, which is headed by Dr Miklos Timar, include approving or vetoing industrial improvements from the viewpoint of workers' health, regardless of the economic or technical benefits such improvements may bring.

Since its creation in January 1950, the National Industrial Hygiene Agency has extended its sphere of activity to include the entire country. The agency carries on research on working conditions as they affect workers' health, on the treatment of occupational illnesses, prevention of accidents and occupational illnesses, supervision of shop physicians, organization of industrial hygiene lectures to medical students, and the presentation of popular lectures on industrial hygiene. The agency also has an ambulance service for patients with occupation-connected illnesses, and an infirmary for such patients is under construction at the Istvan Hospital.

The role of the National Industrial Hygiene Agency in the Five-Year Plan is closely connected with that of the Academy of Sciences and the industrial development program. Thus, the agency is currently paying particular attention to problems of industrial hygiene in mines. Air tests and working conditions in mines are being studied, with emphasis on questions relative to the electrification of mine machinery. The agency has already been of great help in solving some aspects of illnesses in mines. Most research so far has been conducted on coal mines, but questions of industrial hygiene in bauxite mines will be taken into consideration during the second half of the year.

Although in 1945 there were no industrial hygiene regulations, during the short existence of the National Industrial Hygiene Agency standards have been drawn up for the chemical industry, the construction materials industry, the

- 1 -

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printing, food, textile, and the iron and steel metallurgical industries. This year, industrial hygiene standards will be drawn up for the iron and steel industry, also. Industrial hygiene researchers are now receiving the aid of legal assistants. As a result of the work of the National Industrial Hygiene Agency researchers, material is being accumulated for the establishment of the first general industrial hygiene code.

STUDY HARVESTING METHODS, APPROVE COMBINE -- Budapest, Kis Ujsag, 16 Jun 51

A large number of vocational hygiene regulations, especially for agriculture, is resulting from research conducted by the National Industrial Hygiene Agency. The problems of vocational hygiene in agriculture, and the nature of related research to be conducted, were discussed a year ago at the first Agricultural Industrial Hygiene Congress at the Mazonhegyes State Farm. Agencies participating at the meeting were the Academy of Science, the National Public Health Agency, the Nutritional Science Agency, the National Industrial Hygiene Agency, the public health agencies of Budapest and Szeged universities, and many related research groups.

Following the congress, a four-member research team of the National Industrial Hygiene Agency, consisting of Dr Sandor Bordas, Dr Gyorgy Fischer, Dr Bela Kanyo, and Dr Erzsebet Weber, aided by the work of other research groups, studied questions of vocational hygiene in connection with reaping and threshing, such as diet, clothing and lodging of harvest workers, the effect of weather on worker efficiency, etc. Comparing the use of the combine to older methods of harvesting, the report of the National Industrial Hygiene Agency research team concluded that the combine was in every way the most desirable method of harvesting. In addition to performing the work of 70 hand reapers and an old-style thresher, the combine produces considerably less injurious dust. The Nutritional Science Agency studied workers' nutrition, meteorologists of the Szeged Scientific University studied the effects of weather on worker efficiency, and the Academy of Science and associated agencies studied working conditions, work clothes, lodgings, and the cleanliness and comfort of the workers. Recommendations made by the research groups included elevation of the exhaust pipe of the combine to keep exhaust gases away from workers, installation of a safer, more comfortable seat for the combine operator, and installation of a chaff blower, automatic feeder and baler on threshing machines. In general, the suggestions of the research groups tend to increase production and reduce operating expenses, as well as to improve the workers' health conditions.

As a result of the recommendations, the Ministry of Agriculture issued a directive for new-type tractor seats. The work of the research groups in connection with reaping and threshing will continue through 1951.

The program of the Academy of Sciences provides for the extension of the research of the National Industrial Hygiene Agency during 1952 to include work on crop protection, such as spraying, dusting, and tanning. The occasional occurrence of poisonous substances in plant-protecting chemicals requires special procedures in their handling. The handling of such chemicals has often been lax and not according to regulations. In some cases the old regulations covering the use of the chemicals have been revised. With the introduction of large-scale aerial spraying of crops, such as is practiced in the USSR, many of the problems of handling chemicals will be eliminated.

- 2 -

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SAFETY APPAREL TO BE PROVIDED WORKERS -- Budapest, Szabad Nep, 19 Jun 51

A decree issued by the Ministry of Health regulates the issuance of safety apparel for workers. The employer must provide safety apparel, such as safety clothes, safety glasses, etc., to workers on jobs which constitute a hazard to their health or safety, and in which the hazard cannot be removed by a safety appliance. The safety apparel is provided free, must be worn at work, and cannot be worn away from the shop.

- E N D -

- 3 -

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